Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The roots of the First Baptist Church extend back to South Russia. A group of believers immigrated with their families to Dakota Territory, arriving in Scotland, Dakota Territory, in 1884. Federal land agents directed They were later directed to the Ipswich, Long Lake, Eureka, and Artas areas because it was open for settlement; and,

Whereas, Berthold Matzke was commissioned by the Northwestern Conference of the North American Baptists in the fall of 1884, to find the settlers; he began to conduct worship services in their prairie homes, and by November 1885, 10 families assembled together to organize a church; and,

Whereas, Mr. Matzke received a call to become their pastor, and in April 1886, he arrived at the Spring Creek area, to begin his labors with the settlers. This year proved to be a year of severe hardship for the people of the Dakota Territory due to drought conditions during the summer, followed by severe blizzards and snow; and,

Whereas, On June 21, 1886, a group of 21 believers, members of various Baptist churches, assembled to bring about a long cherished hope to organize themselves into a regular church. The First German Baptist Church at the Spring Creek, Campbell County, Dakota, was the official name; and,

Whereas, November 5, 1886, the Milwaukee Land Company donated a lot to the church with conditions that a foundation be built for the erection of a church in Eureka. Thus the church was relocated and renamed First German Baptist Church, Eureka, McPherson County, Dakota; and,

Whereas, Today, the First Baptist Church gives thanks for those who founded the community of believers and for God's promise to be with the church going into the future with faith and hope:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2011, as

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
QUASQUICENTENNIAL DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirteenth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eleven.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Jason Gant

Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State